

CONSUMER PROTECTION



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News

June 2001 Edition

Dear Wisconsin Children's Safety Advocates:

In May, 2001, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued **eight (8) recalls relating to products affecting children and three (3) product advisories**. Attached is a summary of the releases identifying the product, problem and what should be done with the recalled product.

We have found that not all of the recalls are picked up by the news media as they occur. This monthly summary will give you the opportunity to review all of the children's product safety recalls for the past month.

If you are interested in a complete text of the recall, double click on the hyperlink at the end of the recall description. This will take you to the CPSC website and the actual recall notice.

If you have other product safety questions you may call our toll free number at **(800) 422-7128 and then press "zero" (0) to speak with Product Safety**. You should leave your name, your organization's name and a phone number.

Following is a listing of the 11 "KIDS" recalls & advisories by title and identification number:

- ❖ Unilever Home and Personal Care USA is recalling Snuggle® Teeny Bean Bears included with fabric softener. #01-146
- ❖ Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. is recalling Padlocks and Cable Gun Locks for replacement. #01-148
- ❖ Fisher-Price is recalling Basketball Sets to replace Nets. #01-149
- ❖ Child Craft Industries is recalling Changing Tables. #01-154
- ❖ COMBI International Corp. is recalling Activity Rockers to replace toy bars. #01-155
- ❖ Spin Master Toys is recalling Water Rocket Toys. #01-158
- ❖ Raymond Geddes & Co. Inc. is recalling Push'n Pop Toys. #01-060
- ❖ Saks Incorporated is recalling Boys' Vests. #01-164
- ❖ CPSC Reminds Bicyclists to "Use Your Head by Wearing a Helmet". #01-143
- ❖ CPSC Alerts Caregivers to Hidden Hazard in Babies' Cribs. #01-156
- ❖ CPSC Votes to Begin Rulemaking to Improve the Safety of Baby Bath Seats. #01-163

We hope you find this service of value and that it assists you to:

Recall Listings Continued

“KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE!”

KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

Release Number: 01-146 Unilever Home and Personal Care USA, of Greenwich, Conn., is voluntarily recalling about 150,000 Snuggle® Teeny Bean Bears with a nightcap and pom-pom. The bear was included as a promotional item in Snuggle®, Cuddle Up®, Fresh Rain™, and Sweet Slumber™ fabric softener products sold in twin packs. Each twin pack contains a bottle of liquid fabric softener and a box of softener sheets along with the bear. The bean bear is 5 inches tall and wears a blue nightcap with a yellow moon and star design. At the end of the nightcap is a yellow pom-pom. A label on the bear reads in part "©2001 Lever Brothers Company, Made In China." Wal-Mart Stores nationwide sold the twin packs containing the bear with the pom-pom on the cap from March 2001 through April 2001 for between \$7 and \$8. No other Snuggle bears are included in this recall.

Problem: The yellow pom-pom can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.

What to do: Consumers should immediately remove the bear's pom-pom to eliminate the choking hazard. For additional information, consumers can contact Snuggle at (800)-598-5005 between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the firm's web site at [Snuggletime.com](http://www.snuggletime.com).

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01146.html>

Release Number: 01-148 Sturm, Ruger & Co. Inc., of Southport, Conn. is voluntarily recalling 1.2 million padlocks and 800,000 cable gun locks that bear the "Ruger" name. Lockable boxes using these padlocks were shipped by Ruger with its pistols and revolvers from 1987 until 1995. The red cable locks were shipped with Ruger rifles and shotguns from 1998 until March 2001. These locks were distributed nationwide.

Problem: The padlocks can be opened using keys other than those originally provided with the locks and the cable locks can be opened if struck with force potentially allowing unauthorized access to a firearm.

What to do: Consumers with the recalled padlocks and cable locks should send them to

Sturm, Ruger & Co. Inc., Dept. LK, 411 Sunapee Street, Newport, NH 03773 for a free replacement lock. For more information, call Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. toll-free at (888) 317-6887 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit Ruger's website at www.Ruger-Firearms.com. Consumers are reminded to make sure their unloaded gun is secure until the new replacement lock is received.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01148.html>

Release Number: 01-149 Fisher-Price, of East Aurora, N.Y., is recalling about 55,000 basketball sets to replace the nets. The recalled Grow-to-Pro Basketball set has a black pole that adjusts from 3 to 6 feet. A nylon net with an orange plastic hoop is attached to the pole, along with a gray backboard. The Fisher-Price logo is on the front of the backboard; and the model number, 72408, along with the words, "Made in U.S.A." are on the other side of the backboard. Toy, mass merchandise and discount stores sold these toys nationwide from January 2001 through May 2001 for about \$30.

Problem: Some of the nets have enlarged openings. If children put their heads into these enlarged openings, the net can get tangled around their necks and they could strangle.

What to do: Consumers should stop using the basketball set immediately. Consumers should call Fisher-Price toll-free at (800) 247-9395 anytime to order a free replacement net. Fisher-Price will help consumers determine if their basketball nets have enlarged openings. Consumers can also visit the company's website at www.fisher-price.com.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01149.html>

Release Number: 01-154 Child Craft Industries, of Salem, Ind., is voluntarily recalling about 4,300 changing tables. The changing table is made of beech wood and comes in a variety of colors including white, honey oak, natural and cherry finishes. The table measures about 38 inches high by 35 inches wide by 20 inches deep.

There are two labels on one of the rails of the changing table. One label is gold and reads in part "Child Craft Industries" and the other label is stamped in black ink and reads in part "FoppsPedretti, Made in Italy." Department and specialty stores nationwide, including Sears and Burlington Coat Factory, sold the changing tables from August 1998 through April 2001 for about \$150.

Problem: Some changing table joints were not properly glued and can separate, presenting a fall hazard to babies.

What to do: Consumers should stop using the recalled changing tables immediately and call Child Craft at (866) 423-3114 between 8:30a.m. and 5:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday to receive information on participating in this recall. Consumers also can visit the firm's website at www.childcraftind.com.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01154.html>

Release Number: 01-155 Activity Rockers - COMBI International Corp., of Carol Stream, Ill., is voluntarily recalling about 4,100 activity rockers to replace their toy bars. The toy bar is an attachment to the COMBI activity rocker. The toy bar has three toys, including a blue plastic bear, a yellow plastic mirror and a clear plastic ball with small colorful beads inside. The clear ball also has a red ring around it. The recalled toy bars are on activity rockers with model numbers #9710-0 and #9710-1 and lot numbers 7000-10102 and 5000-6034 located on the frame of the rocker. Juvenile specialty stores, including The Right Start, Buy Buy Baby and Burlington Coat Factory nationwide sold the rockers from November 2000 through February 2001 for about \$70.

Problem: One of the toys, a clear plastic ball can crack and break during use, exposing the small beads inside, posing a choking hazard to young children.

What to do: Consumers should immediately detach the toy bar from the activity rocker and discard it and call COMBI to receive a free replacement toy bar. For more information, contact COMBI at (800) 992- 6624 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday. Consumers also can visit the firm's website at www.combi-intl.com. Media inquiries should be directed to Lynne Cyr at (630) 871-0404 Ext. 215.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01155a.html>

Release Number: 01-158 Spin Master Toys, of Ontario, Canada, is voluntarily recalling about 108,000 Splash Blast Water Rockets. The rockets have a transparent blue plastic body with a red soft foam nose and blue or yellow rocket fins. Each rocket comes with a color coordinated launcher that attaches to a garden hose. The rocket is powered by water and air. A label on the front of the rocket launcher reads in part, "SPLASH BLAST WATER ROCKET," "CAUTION STAY CLEAR OF ROCKET DURING LAUNCH." Imprinted on the base of the rocket launcher is the month, day and year code that reads MM/DD/YYYY followed by the letters AC. This recall includes rockets manufactured up to March 17, 2001 (03172001AC). Major department stores, wholesale clubs and specialty stores, including Wal Mart, Toys R US, and Costco nationwide sold the rockets from January 2001 through March 2001 for about \$20.

Problem: The rockets, once propelled from launcher, can fly rapidly in unpredictable directions, and can hit and injure children.

What to do: Consumers should stop using the recalled water rocket toys immediately and call Spin Master Toys at (800) 622-8339 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday to receive a replacement rocket. Consumers also can visit the firm's web site at www.spinmaster.com.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01158.html>

Release Number: 01-160 Push'n Pop Toys - Raymond Geddes & Co. Inc., of Baltimore, Md., is voluntarily recalling about 6,500 Tropical Fish and Rockin' Reptile Push'n Pop toys, which are also known as Zapper toys. The vinyl toys are about 2- to 3-inches long, and come in two different styles: a fish and lizard. When the toy is squeezed, the balloon tongue attached to its mouth inflates or rolls out. "MADE IN CHINA" is molded into the toy. Toy stores, doctor and dentist offices, and carnivals and circuses sold and distributed these toys from August 1998 through March 2001. They were sold for about \$1.

Problem: The balloon tongues and the cylinders holding the tongues on these toys can

detach, which poses choking and aspiration hazards to young children.

What to do: Consumers should immediately take these toys away from young children and take them back to where they were purchased for a refund, or throw them away. If consumers have questions, call the firm at (800) 533-6273 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's web site at www.raymondgeddes.com. Consumers also can contact the firm by email at consumeraffairs@raymondgeddes.com.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01160a.html>

Release Number: 01-164 Saks Incorporated, of Birmingham, Ala., is voluntarily recalling about 14,500 boys' vests. The recalled vests are red nylon/blue fleece reversible zippered vests sold in toddler sizes 2T through 4T. They were sold under the URIT and Parisian Kids brands. The zipper pulls have black and white checkered elastic toggles on the ends. There is a front zipper and three pocket zippers. Labels sewn into the front side pocket read in part "Parisian kids" or "URIT" and "MADE IN KOREA SEE REVERSE FOR CARE." Department stores including, Parisian, Carson Pirie Scott, Youngers, McRae's, Proffitt's, Bergner's, Herberger's and Boston Store nationwide sold the vests from July 2000 through January 2001 for about \$24.

Problem: The elastic toggle cord on the end of the zipper pulls can loosen and come off, posing a choking hazard to young children.

What to do: Consumers should stop using the vest immediately and return the vest to any Saks store for a refund. For more information on this recall, contact CPSC at (800) 638-2772 anytime.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01164.html>

Release Number: 01-143 The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has been reporting for years that wearing a helmet while riding a bike can save your life. Cole Kertz, an 8-year-old from Bloomington, Ill., can now vouch for this first-hand. Doctors tell him if he had not been wearing his helmet, he would have died last summer when he crashed into a pole while riding his bike. Even with the helmet, he suffered

a severely broken jaw, which had to be wired shut to heal.

According to a survey released in 1999 by CPSC and the McDonald's Corp., only about 50 percent of bicycle riders in the U.S. regularly wear bike helmets. Of the estimated 80 million bike riders, 43 percent never wear a helmet and 7 percent wear helmets less than half the time. CPSC is participating in a national strategy to make it safer for bicycle riders to use the nation's roads by, in part, promoting bike safety and helmet use. The strategy, entitled the National Strategies for Advancing Bicycle Safety, was prepared by a coalition of representatives from more than 60 groups, including CPSC, other federal and state agencies, professional and non-profit groups, and bicycling advocacy organizations. For more information, go to www.cdc.gov/ncipc/bike.

Not only do bicyclists of all ages need to always wear helmets when biking, they also need to make sure their helmet fits properly. Helmets should be worn low on the forehead, about two finger widths above the eyebrows. They should sit evenly between the ears and flat on the head. Tighten the chin straps and adjust the pads inside so the helmet feels snug and secure, and doesn't move up and down or from side to side.

When purchasing a new helmet, bicyclists should make sure it meets the current safety standard issued by CPSC. The standard ensures that helmets provide excellent head protection and that the chin straps are strong enough to keep a helmet on the head and in place during a fall or collision. Look for a label inside the helmet which states it is certified to comply with CPSC's standard. For more tips on bicycle safety and information on recalls involving bicycles and bike helmets, call CPSC's Hotline at (800) 638-2772, or go to CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01143.html>

Release Number: 01-156 The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is warning caregivers about the dangers of loose or oversized sheets in babies' cribs. Since 1984, CPSC has learned of the deaths of 17 babies, most under 12 months old, who suffocated or strangled when they became entangled in sheets in their cribs or beds. Two of these deaths were with fitted crib sheets.

CPSC has worked to strengthen safety requirements for fitted crib sheets. An industry standard requires crib sheets to have a warning label that says "Prevent suffocation or entanglement. Never use crib sheet unless it fits securely on crib mattress." CPSC also has pushed industry to improve the fit of crib sheets on mattresses.

CPSC has issued a safety alert on this hidden hazard and is working to distribute this information to pediatrician's offices through the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The information will be published in the June issue of the Academy's membership newsmagazine, AAP News, which reaches 55,000 pediatricians nationwide. Starting today, the safety alert will be posted on the AAP News' Web site, www.aapnews.org.

CPSC offers the following tips on ensuring a safer sleeping environment for babies:

- Make sure the crib sheet fits snugly on a crib mattress and overlaps the mattress so it cannot be dislodged by pulling on the corner of the sheet.
- Never use an adult sheet on a crib mattress; it can come loose and present an entanglement hazard to young children.
- Place a baby on his/her back on a firm, tight-fitting mattress in a crib meeting current safety standards.
- Remove pillows, quilts, comforters, and sheepskins from the crib.

To get a free copy of the crib sheet safety alert, write to CPSC, Washington, D.C. 20207, email CPSC at publications@cpsc.gov, or get it here (also available in pdf which requires Adobe Acrobat Reader).

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01156.html>

Release Number: 01-163 The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) voted unanimously today to begin developing a safety standard for baby bath seats.

CPSC is aware of 78 babies who have drowned while using baby bath seats in the last two decades. The victims ranged in age from 5 to 20 months old. In many of the deaths, the bath seat tipped over, generally because the suction cups did not adequately adhere to the tub

surface. Some deaths occurred when the baby's body slipped through the leg holes of the bath seat and the head got trapped.

Today, there is only one major manufacturer in the bath seat industry. Retail sales of new baby bath seats may range from 700,000 to 1,000,000 annually. As many as 10 manufacturers left the business over the past few years. Some of these manufacturers' products are still in use and may be sold at garage sales or passed on to friends and family.

CPSC urges parents and caregivers who are using baby bath seats to:

- Never leave a baby alone in the water for even a second. Keep baby in arms reach.
- Never use the baby bath seat in a non-skid, slip-resistant bathtub because the suction cups may not adhere to the bathtub surface.
- Check to see that the suction cups are securely attached to the bath seat and tub surface.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01163.html>